

REMARKS

Claims 1-57 and 61-62 are presently pending in this application.

The Examiner rejected all independent claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Phaal (US 6,006,269) in view of Emens et al. (US 6,934,735) and possibly one other reference.

We notice, however, that the filing date of Emens et al. is after the earliest priority date to which the present application is claiming benefit. Emens et al. has a filing date of July 7, 2000. The present application claims the benefit of priority of two earlier filings, one which occurred on November 10, 1999, and the other which occurred on October 12, 1999. Both dates on which the present application claims benefit of priority are earlier than the filing date of the Emens et al. patent. Thus, the Emens et al. patent is not prior art to the present application.

For this reason, we submit that the Examiner has not established a prima facie case of obviousness and that the claims are allowable.

Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account No. 08-0219.

Respectfully submitted,

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